

In the claims, cancel claims 3 and 32 and amend claims 1, 16, 18, 21, 22, 30, 46 and 49 as shown on the attached Current Claims Schedule.

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 32 have been cancelled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-31, and 33-49 in the application.

Claims 16, 18 and 46 have been amended to address the objections noted in Par. 1 of the action.

Claims 21 and 22, indicated as being allowable if amended to place them in independent form, have been so amended. Therefore, those claims as well as claims 23-29 dependent upon claim 22 should be allowed.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 4-7, 12, 30, 33-36, 41, and 49 as being anticipated by ARDON.

Independent claims 1, 30 and 49 have been amended to emphasize that applicant's method and system call for switching between a traditional switching model, ie. one in which control signaling and media switching are coupled so that the first model does not support self-routing connectionless communications, and a second switching model which does support same and in which control signaling and media switching are decoupled such that the system is configured to switch substantially no bearer traffic during the second switching model; see Specification page 1, lines 10-20, page 2, lines 4-13, page 5, lines 17-30 and page 6, lines 1-4.

We submit that there is no suggestions whatsoever in ARDON of the second switching model recited in applicant's independent claims. As far as we can determine, all of the switching models, ie. 11&14, 12&15, 13&16, correspond to applicant's first switching model which is the traditional model in which call control signaling and media switching are effectively coupled in a single "box", Specification paragraph 1, line 15. ARDON fails to teach the second switching model now particularized in applicant's independent claims. The same is true of the cited secondary references.

Accordingly, claims 1, 30 and 49 cannot possibly be anticipated by ARDON.

The remaining claims being dependent upon one or the other of claims 1 and 30 should be allowed for the same reasons.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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